

# Weakley County Board of Education



Monitoring:	Descriptor Term: <b>Child Abuse and Neglect</b>	Descriptor Code: 6.409	Issued Date: 10/21/2014
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1    **REPORTING**

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3    All personnel shall be alert for any evidence of child abuse or neglect.

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5    Child abuse is defined as any wound, injury, disability, or physical or mental condition which is of such  
6    nature as to reasonably indicate that it has been caused by brutality, abuse, or neglect or which on the  
7    basis of available information reasonably appears to have been caused by such. Staff members having  
8    knowledge or suspicion of any child who is suffering from abuse or neglect shall report such harm  
9    immediately.<sup>1</sup> The report shall be made to the judge having juvenile jurisdiction, the office of the chief  
10   law-enforcement official where the child resides, or to the Department of Children's Services in a manner  
11   specified by the department, either by contacting a local representative of the department or by utilizing  
12   the department's centralized intake procedure where applicable.<sup>1</sup>

13  
14   The report shall include:

- 15  
16   1. The name, address and age of the child;  
17   2. The name and address of the parents or persons having custody of the child;  
18   3. The nature and extent of the abuse or neglect; and  
19   4. Any evidence to the cause or any other information that may relate to the cause or extent of the abuse  
20   or neglect.<sup>1</sup>

21  
22   The person reporting shall be immune from liability<sup>2</sup> and his identity shall remain confidential except  
23   when the juvenile court determines otherwise.<sup>3</sup>

24  
25   The director of schools shall develop reporting procedures, including sample indicators of abuse and  
26   neglect, and shall disseminate the procedures to all school personnel.<sup>4</sup> However, nothing in the reporting  
27   procedures shall eliminate the staff member's legal responsibility to directly make a report to the  
28   authorities stated above.<sup>5</sup>

29  
30   **INVESTIGATIONS**

31  
32   School administrators and employees have a duty to cooperate, provide assistance and information in  
33   child abuse investigations<sup>6</sup> including permitting child abuse review teams to conduct interviews while the  
34   child is at school; the principal may control the time, place and circumstances of the interview, but may  
35   not insist that a school employee be present even if the suspected abuser is a school employee or another  
36   student. The principal is not in violation of any laws by failing to inform parents that the child is to be  
37   interviewed even if the suspected abuser is not a member of the child's household.<sup>7</sup>

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Legal References:

<sup>1</sup> TCA 37-1-403(a); TCA 37-1-412

<sup>2</sup> TCA 37-1-409

<sup>3</sup> TCA 37-1-408

<sup>4</sup> TRR/MS 0520-1-3-.08(2)(e)

<sup>5</sup> TCA 37-1-403(h)

<sup>6</sup> TVA 37-1-611(b)

<sup>7</sup> Tenn. Op. Atty. Gen. No. 87-101 (June 9, 1987)

Cross Reference:

6.303 Interrogations and Searches